



Black women feel sting of 'traumatizing' Jackson hearings

(AP) — "Senator," she said, letting out an audible sigh. In that singular moment, Supreme Court nominee Ketanji Brown Jackson spoke for countless Black women who have had to gather all the patience, strength and grace within to answer insinuating questions about their credentials, qualifications and character. It was Day One of questioning at the Senate Judiciary Committee as the Harvard-educated Jackson, the first Black woman to be nominated for the nation's highest court, was making history. The federal judge had to endure hours of public scrutiny from skeptics, namely the Republican senators who are erecting a wall of opposition to her landmark nomination, the

first in the court's 233-year history, and may vote en bloc against her confirmation. "It was really traumatizing to watch," said Melanie L. Campbell, president and CEO of the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation and convenor of the Black Women's Roundtable. From questioning of Jackson's view of books on critical race theory that drew her exasperated sigh — "They don't come up in my work as a judge," she said — to the loaded suggestion that the sentences she imposed on child pornography defendants were too lenient, the questions from the Republicans tapped into long-standing American grievances over race, class and public safety.



Continued on next page

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SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
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Continued from Front

The insinuations that Jackson, a distinguished jurist and mother of two, is a secret radical liberal or poses a danger to the safety of children felt to some supporters as yet another example of highly qualified Black women having to endure indignities and distortions of their credentials, even as they shatter racial barriers in American society.

Campbell told The Associated Press that "the othering of her, in a sense, like she's against our children," seemed like a tired political tactic.

"My spirit feels it was to bring this Black woman down because she's about to break the glass ceiling that, once broken, opens the door to more."

Democrats praise President Joe Biden's choice of Jackson as long overdue, a

chance to start making the court more reflective of the diverse nation it serves. But they have been slow to bolster the judge's nomination against the unrelenting attacks and instead allowed them to linger.

Over and over during her hearings, Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Josh Hawley of Missouri hammered Jackson on a handful of the many cases she handled as a judge, asking if she regretted having a record that, in their view, is soft on child pornography defendants.

No matter how many times Jackson asserted, for example, that the child pornography cases were some of "the most difficult" of her career or tried to explain the particulars of the law, the GOP senators talked over her, past her and pushed onward in their at-

tempt to portray the nominee as they wished.

"I can only wonder what's your hidden agenda," asked Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., pointing to one of the judge's earlier writings. "Is it to let violent criminals, cop killers and child predators back to the streets? ... Is it your personal hidden agenda to incorporate critical race theory into our legal system?"

These senators insisted their questions were not about race. In fact, Graham opened with a warning that the questioners would be framed as racist. "We're all racists if we ask hard questions. It's not going to fly with us."

Yet Republicans ignored analysis that shows Jackson's sentencing record on such cases is on track with other judges appointed by both Democrats and Republican presidents, and

that in some cases she went beyond recommendations to come down harder on defendants.

"What I regret," Jackson told the senators, "is that in the hearing about my qualifications to be a justice on the Supreme Court, we've spent a lot of time focusing on this small subset of my sentences."

For many supporters of Jackson, the Republicans' cherry-picking of her record tarnished a momentous occasion.

Nina Turner, a former Ohio state senator who was a prominent surrogate for Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2020 Democratic presidential campaign, criticized Democratic members on the committee for not defending Jackson more vigorously. "She should not have had to endure what she endured," Turner told the AP. "The Democratic senators should have used their authority and positioning to show the requisite outrage necessary for that moment."

Overall, during her time on the district court bench, Jackson presided over 14 total cases of child sexual abuse, interstate travel for child sexual abuse and child pornography.

The American Bar Association's standing committee on the federal judiciary said in its survey of some 250 judges, attorneys and academics that words such as "brilliant," "beyond reproach," "fair" were used to describe Jackson, who earned the panel's highest rating.

"They uniformly rejected any accusations of bias," said Jean Veta of the ABA committee.

In a letter to the Senate committee, Fred Bowman, a University of Missouri law professor and former federal prosecutor, spoke of his dismay at the thought Jackson was somehow "soft" on these crimes. His letter was signed by other experts in the field.

White House deputy press secretary Andrew Bates blasted the Republican line of questioning as an "embarrassing conspiracy theory" that "has been conclusively debunked by fact

check after fact check." But alone before the panel, Jackson had difficulty convincing the Republican senators as she worked to explain the rules judges adhere to and the nuances of the wrenching cases they face. The GOP senators rarely accepted the judge's answers and interjected or just ignored her explanations altogether.

At one point, Jackson simply stopped answering: "Senator," she said to Cruz, "I've said what I'm going to say about these cases. No one case can stand in for a judge's entire record."

By Thursday, as the hearings concluded, Republican leaders in the Senate were using the issue — and her refusal to repeat earlier answers — as justification for opposing her confirmation.

Throughout the four days of testimony, Black women filled many of the seats in the committee room. Those women included some of the leading civil rights figures and members of the Congressional Black Caucus, which ran its own "war room" to back up Jackson's nomination.

LaTosha Brown, cofounder of the group Black Voters Matter, said she had received numerous text messages from Black women who were both outraged by Jackson's treatment from senators and heartened by her clear determination to endure the process.

"I just got texts that said, 'Persevere.'"

It was a reference to Jackson's own words of advice delivered at the hearing to young people who may have watched what the nominee endured and felt discouraged.

"Black people in America," Brown said, "if we don't know anything else, we know what that word means." □



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NYC planning to remove homeless encampments from streets

(AP) — New York City officials are planning to remove makeshift shelters set up by homeless people on city streets, mirroring similar efforts in other liberal metropolises that had previously tolerated the encampments.

Mayor Eric Adams disclosed the initiative in an interview with The New York Times on Friday, but provided few details. It comes a month after he announced a push to remove homeless people from the city's sprawling subway system in response to assaults and other aggressive behavior.

"We're going to rid the encampments off our street and we're going to place people in healthy living conditions with wrap-around services," he told the Times. "I'm telling my city agencies to do an analysis block by block,



district by district, identify where the encampments are, then execute a plan to give services to the people who are in the encampments, then to dismantle those encampments."

Adams did not say where people living in the encampments would go, and acknowledged officials cannot force anyone to go to a homeless shelter. He expected the effort to be-

gin within two weeks.

"We can't stop an individual from sleeping on the street based on law, and we're not going to violate that law," he said. "But you can't build a miniature

house made out of cardboard on the streets. That's inhumane."

In its most recent estimate in January 2021, the city said about 1,100 people were living in parks and on the streets — a number seen by many advocates as an undercount. Most of the roughly 50,000 homeless people in the city stay in shelters.

People who are homeless and their advocates have said removing street encampments only results in people moving from one spot to another.

An increasing number of cities across the country including Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C., have been removing encampments and taking other steps to address homelessness that would have been unheard of years ago. □

Officials lift most evacuation orders on Colorado wildfire

(AP) — A wildfire south of Boulder that forced nearly 20,000 people to flee was listed at 21% contained and most evacuations had been lifted by Sunday morning, officials with Boulder Fire-Rescue said.

The fire, which ignited Saturday, burned to within 1,000 yards (914 meters) of homes on the west end of Boulder, said Mike Smith, incident commander.

A quick initial attack "combined with all of the fuels mitigation treatments that we've done in this area is one of the reasons that we've had such great success," Smith said Sunday.

Fire crews were also able to use aircraft to fight the fire, laying down lines of fire retardant near homes in the rolling hills south of the college town, he said.

The evacuation area was reduced late Saturday to cover about 1,700 people and 700 residences, down from about 8,000 homes earlier in the day. Fire managers will allow more people back into their homes Sunday as it becomes safe, officials said.

Work on Sunday was focused on reinforcing the



fire line and making sure the fire doesn't burn toward the city of Boulder or down toward Eldorado Canyon, Smith said. Crews were working to corral the fire into an area of rocks and snow.

The fire burned an estimated 200 acres (81 hectares) of dormant trees and dry grass not far from where a

late December fire, pushed by strong winds, burned

over 9 square miles (24 square kilometers) and de-

stroyed about 1,100 homes. Fire crews are concerned about the upcoming fire season, Smith said.

"I think this is just a sign of the way things are going to go," he said.

"We continue to work on our planning processes. We continue to work on the team building and work with our partners to make sure that we're as dialed as we can be. We're feeling good, but we're a little nervous about the upcoming season."

Saturday's fire started around 2 p.m. and burned protected wildland near the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder police said. Authorities have called it the NCAR fire and its cause is not yet known, although officials have found the spot where it was believed to have started, Smith said. □



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US Rep. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska announces resignation

(AP) — Republican U.S. Rep. Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska on Saturday resigned from office after a California jury convicted him of lying to federal authorities about an illegal campaign donation from a foreign national.

In a letter to the House, Fortenberry said he was resigning from Congress, effective March 31.

"It has been my honor to serve with you in the United States House of Representatives," he said in the letter. "Due to the difficulties of my current circumstances, I can no longer effectively serve."

Fortenberry's resignation letter opened with a poem, "Do It Anyway," that's associated with fellow Catholic Mother Teresa. One line from the poem says "What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight. Build anyway." Fortenberry's announcement followed concerted pressure from political leaders in Nebraska and Washington for him to step down. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy on Friday urged Fortenberry to resign.

Nebraska Republican Gov. Pete Ricketts said Fortenberry should "do the right



thing for his constituents" and leave the office he has held since 2005.

Fortenberry was indicted in October after authorities said he lied to FBI agents in two separate interviews about his knowledge of an illegal \$30,000 contribution from his campaign from a foreign billionaire. Fortenberry was interviewed at his home in Lincoln, and then again with his lawyers present in Washington, D.C.

At trial, prosecutors presented recorded phone conversations in which Fortenberry was repeat-

edly warned that the contributions came from Gilbert Chagoury, a Nigerian billionaire of Lebanese descent. The donations were funneled through three strawmen at a 2016 fundraiser in Los Angeles.

Fortenberry's withdrawal from the primary leaves state Sen. Mike Flood as the likely GOP nominee. The former speaker of the Nebraska Legislature, who has won endorsements from Ricketts and former Gov. Dave Heineman, has a strong advantage in the Republican-leaning 1st

Congressional District. State Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks, a Democrat from Lincoln, is also running for the seat.

In a statement from his campaign, Flood thanked Fortenberry for "his many years of honorable service" and wished him and his family the best.

"Working together, we will keep this seat in Republican hands," Flood said, promising to "continue the fight for our families, our economy and our conservative values in Congress." Pansing Brooks said Fortenberry's conviction is a

"wake-up call" that the district needs a change.

In a statement Saturday, Pansing Brooks said "This opens the door for a new approach to serving (the 1st Congressional District). I am ready and able to meet that challenge and lead with integrity."

The timing of Fortenberry's resignation is expected to trigger a special election. Governors aren't able to appoint a person to the seat. Under Nebraska state law, the governor has to schedule a special election within 90 days once a congressional seat becomes vacant. Each political party gets to pick a nominee who will run to serve the remainder of the congressional member's term.

Flood and Pansing Brooks will both run in the special election to fill the seat and run in November so they can serve the subsequent term.

Nebraska's primary is May 10. Because counties have already mailed ballots to military members serving abroad and other absentee voters, it's too late to remove Fortenberry's name from the primary ballot. Election officials have said there isn't time to schedule a special election to coincide with the primary. □

US-backed group gets lifesaving meds to Ukrainians amid war

(AP) — Thousands of patients in Ukraine are receiving lifesaving medicines to treat HIV and opioid addiction through a U.S.-funded group still operating despite the Russian invasion. Supplies are running short and making deliveries is a complicated calculus with unpredictable risks.

Officials say the quiet work of the Alliance for Public Health shows how American assistance is reaching individuals in the besieged nation, on a different wavelength from U.S. diplomatic and military support for the Ukrainian government.

The Ukraine-based humanitarian organization has op-

erated for more than 20 years. It has received millions of dollars from the U.S. Agency for International Development as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other federal programs to counter HIV globally.

Executive director Andriy Klepikov said shutting down was not an option during the invasion. Ukraine has one of the most serious HIV epidemics in Western Europe, and patients need their medications daily.

He said his group made a "risk management plan" to continue its work if fighting broke out. But it did not envision the scale of the onslaught unleashed by Russian forces, and that has forced the group to adapt.

In areas of Ukraine that have escaped the worst, the organization is still able to deliver medications via postal and parcel services. For refugees who have left the country, caseworkers are making connections with aid groups that can restock medications. In places under attack but still in Ukrainian control, medical vans are bringing in supplies via convoys. The group has even been able to get some deliveries into Russian-controlled areas, with the help of intermediaries. It also is distributing medicines for tuberculosis. Asked how long it can keep going, Klepikov responded:

"We Ukrainians are quite resilient. I am not the best soldier. But in the area of

medicine, humanitarian work, public health, human rights — that's my area, and I will do the maximum possible."

He was interviewed by telephone several times recently.

"We are still serving thousands of people" with medications, Klepikov said. "It's more than five thousand." The group's fleet of medical vans has been pressed into service to transport injured civilians to hospitals that can treat complex cases, and to deliver essential supplies for daily living. U.S. officials say they have been impressed with the attitude of the Ukrainians, which evokes the tenacity of Britons during the London Blitz in World War II. □



Myanmar leader vows to 'annihilate' opponents of army rule

(AP) — Myanmar's leader vowed Sunday to intensify action against homegrown militia groups fighting the military-run government, saying the armed forces would "annihilate" them.

Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, speaking at a military parade marking Armed Forces Day, also urged ethnic minorities not to support groups opposed to army rule and ruled out negotiations with them.

The military seized power last year from the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. Security forces used lethal force to suppress mass nationwide protests, resulting in the deaths of more than 1,700 civilians, according to a detailed tally compiled by the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners.

Forced to turn away from peaceful protests, many of those opposed to military rule took up arms, forming hundreds of militia groups called People's Defense Forces — better known as PDFs. In some parts of the country, they've joined forces with well-organized, battle-hardened ethnic armed groups, which have been fighting for greater autonomy for decades.

Min Aung Hlaing, addressing thousands of military personnel during the parade in the capital Nay-



pyitaw, said he would not negotiate with "terrorist groups and their supporters for killing innocent people" and threatening peace and security. He said the military — known as the Tatmadaw — "will annihilate them to (the) end," according to an official translation of his speech.

His government has declared major resistance organizations — regardless of

whether they are directly engaged in armed struggle — as terrorist groups. Membership or even contact with them carries harsh punishment under law.

"I would like to highlight that there are no governments or armies worldwide that negotiate with any terrorist groups," he said.

Despite a huge advantage in equipment and numbers, Myanmar's military has

struggled to crush the new militia units. Outgunned and outmanned, the PDFs have relied on support from local communities and knowledge of the terrain to carry out often surprisingly effective attacks on convoys, patrols, guard posts, police stations and isolated bases in remote areas.

The military is currently conducting operations in Sagaing, in upper central

Myanmar, and in Kayah State, in the country's east, using airstrikes, artillery barrages and the burning of villages. The army recently seems to have expanded its offensive into Chin State in the west and Kayah State in the southeast as well.

Last year's Armed Forces Day was the single bloodiest since the military's Feb. 1, 2021, seizure of power. Security forces across the country opened fire on demonstrators, killing as many as 160 people.

Anti-military protests were held Sunday despite the risks in Yangon, the country's biggest city, and elsewhere. To avoid arrest or injury, urban street protests usually involve flash mobs, which quickly disperse before security forces crack down. The main opposition group, the self-styled National Unity Government, urged people to join a "Power Strike" Sunday night by switching off the lights and their televisions for 30 minutes while the military parade is broadcast on state-run TV channels.

The group said the strike also is intended to protest daily power outages. The blackouts started several months ago, and the government blames them on high gas prices and damage to power lines caused by sabotage. □

German state election offers 1st test since Scholz took over

(AP) — The western German state of Saarland is holding an election Sunday that offers the country's first test at the ballot box since Chancellor Olaf Scholz's national government took office in December.

Polls before the election for the state legislature point to a solid lead for Scholz's center-left Social Democrats in a region led since 1999 by the center-right Christian Democratic Union party of former Chancellor Angela Merkel.

That doesn't necessarily have much to do with what has been a turbulent first 100 days for Scholz's three-party coalition, during which Russia's war in

Ukraine prompted the chancellor to upend German defense policy and Germany to welcome large numbers of refugees. Germany also is grappling with a persistent wave of coronavirus infections, recently seeing over 200,000 cases per day.

All the same, it's the first of three state elections within two months — all in regions currently led by CDU governors — that will help set the political tone for the coming year. The most important vote, on May 15, is in Germany's most populous state, North Rhine-Westphalia.

Saarland, located on the French border, is one of

Germany's smallest states with nearly 1 million residents. It has been run for the past decade by a coalition of the CDU and the Social Democrats.

This time, polls show Social Democrat Anke Rehlinger — the state's deputy governor and economy minister since 2014 — as voters' favored candidate. Center-right incumbent Tobias Hans is trailing.

The CDU's new national leader, Friedrich Merz, is downplaying the significance of his party's poll showing before Sunday's vote, citing local factors.

"We have always been good in Saarland when the left was divided, and that is

over now," Merz said.

He pointed to a sharp decline in support for the hard-left Left Party, whose co-founder — Oskar Lafontaine, a one-time Social Democrat who was

Saarland's governor in the 1980s and 1990s — recently left the party. It only narrowly avoided being ejected from the German parliament in September's national election. □



Zelenskyy: West needs more courage in helping Ukraine fight

(AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy accused the West of cowardice as his country fights to stave off Russia's invading troops, making an exasperated plea Sunday for fighter jets and tanks to sustain a defense as the war ground into a battle of attrition.

Speaking after U.S. President Joe Biden said in a lacerating speech that Russian President Vladimir Putin could not stay in power — words the White House immediately sought to downplay — Zelenskyy lashed out at the West's "ping-pong about who and how should hand over jets" and other weapons while Russian missile attacks kill and trap civilians.

"I've talked to the defenders of Mariupol today. I'm in constant contact with them. Their determination, heroism and firmness are astonishing," Zelenskyy said in a video address, referring to the besieged southern city that has suffered some of the war's greatest deprivations and horrors. "If only those who have been thinking for 31 days on how to hand over dozens of jets and tanks had 1% of their courage."

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has stalled in many areas. Its aim to quickly encircle the capital, Kyiv, and force its surrender has faltered against staunch Ukrainian resistance — bolstered by weapons from the U.S. and other Western allies.



Zelenskyy signed a law Sunday that bans reporting on troop and equipment movements that haven't been announced or approved by the military. Journalists who violate the law could face three to eight years in prison. The law does not differentiate between Ukrainian and foreign reporters.

Britain's Defense Ministry said Russia's troops are trying to encircle Ukrainian forces facing the two separatist-held areas in the country's east. That would cut the bulk of Ukraine's military off from the rest of the country.

Moscow claims its focus is on wresting the entire eastern Donbas region, which has been partially controlled by Russia-backed separatists since 2014. A

high-ranking Russian military official said Friday that troops were being redirected to the east from other parts of the country.

Russia has supported the separatist rebels in Luhansk and neighboring Donetsk since the insurgency erupted there shortly after Moscow annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. In talks with Ukraine, Moscow has demanded Kyiv acknowledge the independence of Donetsk and Luhansk.

Kyrylo Budanov, the head of Ukrainian military intelligence, accused Russia of seeking to split Ukraine in two, like North and South Korea.

"The occupiers will try to pull the occupied territories into a single quasi-state structure and pit it against

independent Ukraine," Budanov said in a statement released by the Defense Ministry. He predicted that guerrilla warfare by Ukrainians would derail such plans.

A Ukrainian delegate in talks with Russia on ending the war, Davyd Arakhamia, said in a Facebook post the countries would meet in Turkey beginning Monday. However, the Russians then announced the talks would start Tuesday. The sides have met previously with no deal reached.

Zelenskyy, repeating statements he said earlier, told independent Russian journalists Sunday that his government would consider declaring neutrality and offering security guarantees to Russia. That would include keeping Ukraine

nuclear-free, he said.

Ukraine says that to defeat Russia, the West must provide fighter jets and not just missiles and other military equipment. A proposal to transfer Polish planes to Ukraine via the United States was scrapped amid NATO concerns about being drawn into direct fighting.

In his pointed remarks, Zelenskyy accused Western governments of being "afraid to prevent this tragedy. Afraid to simply make a decision."

His plea was echoed Sunday by a priest in the western city of Lviv, which was struck by rockets a day earlier. The aerial assault illustrated that Moscow, despite assertions that it intends to shift the war eastward, is willing to strike anywhere in Ukraine.

"When diplomacy doesn't work, we need military support," said the Rev. Yuri Vaskiv, who said fearful parishioners were staying away from his Greek Catholic church.

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov confirmed Russia used air-launched cruise missiles to hit a fuel depot and a defense plant in Lviv, about 45 miles (75 kilometers) from the Polish border. He said another strike with sea-launched missiles destroyed a depot in Plesetske just west of Kyiv, where Ukraine stored air defense missiles. □

Second 'black box' found in China Eastern plane crash

(AP) — The second "black box" from a China Eastern Boeing 737-800 was found

Sunday, raising hopes that it might shed light on why the passenger plane nose-

dived into a remote mountainous area in southern China last week, killing all 132 people on board.

Firefighters taking part in the search found the flight data recorder on a mountain slope about 40 meters (130 feet) from the point of impact and 1.5 meters (5 feet) underground, state media said. Experts confirmed it was the second black box. The impact of the crash created a 20-meter- (65-foot-) deep pit in the side of the mountain and scattered debris widely.

Searchers had been looking for the data recorder after finding the cockpit voice recorder four days ago. The two black boxes should help investigators determine what caused the plane to plummet from 29,000 feet (8,800 meters) about one hour into the flight and shortly before it would have begun its descent.

The remote setting and rainy and muddy conditions have complicated the search for the black boxes and wreckage. Images posted by CGTN, the

international arm of CCTV, showed an official holding an orange cylindrical object on site with the words "FLIGHT RECORDER" and "DO NOT OPEN" written on it. It appeared slightly dented but intact.

The search was paused Sunday afternoon for a three-minute moment of silence for the 123 passengers and nine crew members. Emergency workers took off their helmets and police and soldiers their caps. Standing in groups in formation, they bowed their heads as sirens blared. □







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EU envoy in Tehran amid hopes to restore nuclear agreement

(AP) — A leading European Union diplomat held talks in Tehran on Sunday, Iran's state-run media reported, amid hopes that an agreement to restore Iran's tattered nuclear deal with world powers could be completed.

The meetings between the EU's envoy, Enrique Mora, and top Iranian officials come at a sensitive moment for talks to revive the deal, as the glimmers of a resolution to some of the thorniest issues in the negotiations have emerged.

The report on the talks in Tehran gave scant detail, saying only that the diplomats discussed the latest on the nuclear agreement, with Iran's top nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani repeating that Iran believed a deal was within reach if America was "realistic" in its demands. After meeting Mora, Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian also cast blame on the U.S. for the delay in reaching an agreement.

Former President Donald Trump abandoned the nuclear deal in 2018 and re-imposed crushing sanctions. Iran gradually breached the agreement with a massive expansion of its nuclear work.

Nuclear talks broke off earlier this month as last-minute wrangles in Vienna coincided with Russia's invasion of Ukraine and financial sanctions imposed by the West on Moscow.

But officials have since made encouraging noises. Russia appeared to back down from its earlier demand that its trade with Iran be exempted from Western sanctions.

And for the first time, Iran's top diplomat on Saturday publicly signaled flexibility over Tehran's demand that Washington stop designating the country's Islamic Revolutionary Guard, its powerful paramilitary force, as a foreign terrorist organization.

The prospect of the designation's removal had alarmed America's Middle East allies, such as Israel, which fiercely opposed the original nuclear deal and argued that easing sanctions on the Revolutionary Guard would embolden Iranian-backed militant groups from Hezbollah in Lebanon to the Houthis in Yemen.

In a visible sign that shared regional anxiety over a renewed nuclear deal was growing, the Israeli government hastily arranged an unprecedented summit of top diplomats from Arab countries that have normalized ties with Israel along with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

"We are both committed, both determined that Iran will never acquire a nuclear weapon," Blinken said alongside Israel's foreign minister, seeking to reassure his jittery counterparts before the gathering.

Remarks on Sunday by the U.S. special envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, underscored the U.S. limitations that have frustrated allies. He declined to discuss details of the nuclear negotiations, but reiterated that America had failed to secure a broader deal with Iran that would restrict its ballistic missiles program and curb its regional military policies.

"It would have been better, but (the nuclear deal) was not intended to, it wasn't able to address the other issues," Malley told the Doha Forum, a Middle East policy conference in Qatar. "Many in the region view the IRGC in the same way we do. ... But we know this is not a deal that's going to address that."

However, Malley was quick to stress that no matter what happens to the Guard's terrorism designation, separate sanctions over its ballistic missile development and alleged human rights violations would remain.

Anxieties over a restored deal also were on stark display in Tehran, laying bare deep fissures in Iran's divided political system.

Hard-liners opposing any hint of rapprochement with the West appeared to fret about possible Iranian compromises after Amirabdollahian told state TV that the Revolutionary Guard had accepted that the terrorist designation would



stay in place so that Iran could pursue "whatever is necessary for the interests of the country."

Hossein Shariatmadari, appointed by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as editor-in-chief of hard-line Kayhan daily, rebuked Amirabdollahian's remarks as "unexpected and strange."

In an interview late Saturday with the semiofficial Fars news agency, Shariatmadari insisted that the foreign minister had misunderstood the Revolutionary Guard when he spoke on the force's behalf.

"Attributing this statement to Guard commanders does not correspond to any of the well-known characteristics of Guard commanders," he said, adding that Amirabdollahian had falsely given the impression of the Guard's "surrender." From the Doha Forum, Sayyid Kamal Kharrazi, a

foreign policy advisor to Iran's supreme leader, also struck a tough line, rejecting the United States' continued sanctions on the Revolutionary Guard.

"A national army cannot be listed as a terrorist group," Kharrazi told the audience. "That is very important for Iranians to have the IRGC removed from the list. ... They are not going to compromise on that."

In an Instagram post, Amirabdollahian expressed regret that his comments had been "misinterpreted" and tried to assuage domestic unease by promising he had not backed down from any Iranian "red lines." Still, ambiguity prevailed as Malley and Kharrazi offered starkly different assessments from Doha about the chances of the deal's looming revival.

"It's imminent," said Kharrazi. Malley appeared more skeptical. □

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This in part is to comply with the updated December 6, CDC requirement for travel to the United States, where all air passengers, regardless of vaccination status, must show a negative COVID-19 test taken no more than 1 day before travel to the United States.

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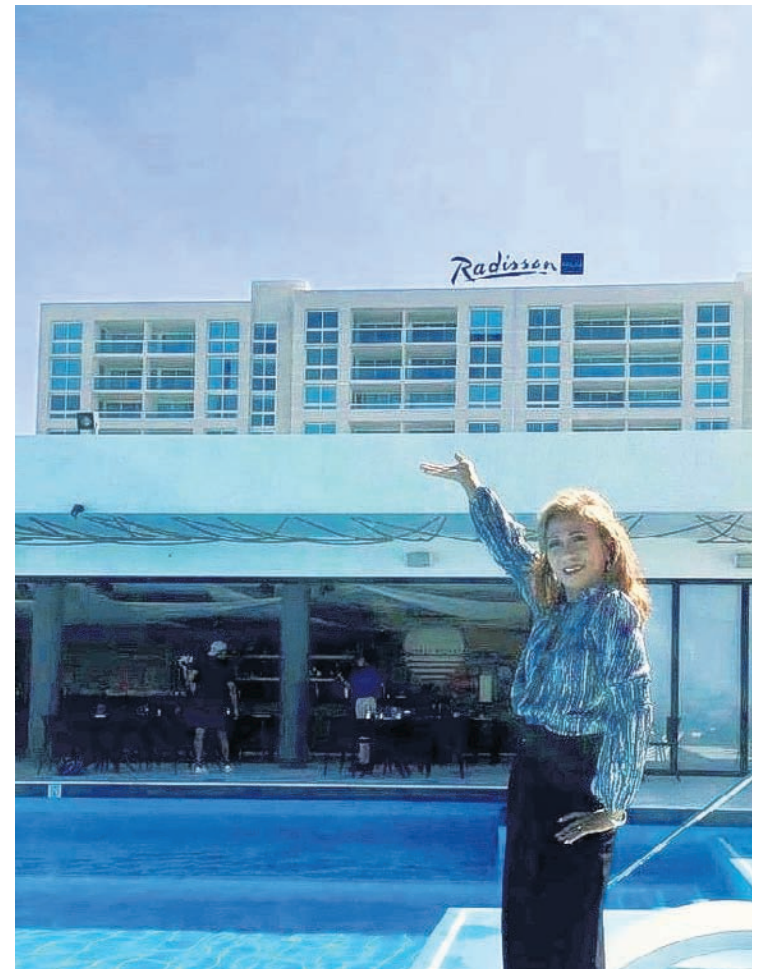
Sunset Bistro offers a nice selection of wines and each Wednesday you will only pay in Florins. You decide whether you wish to start at lunch or dinner or even stay for the whole ride. It is all possible. The bistro is already a fav spot for it's 'bits and bites', an amazing rooftop terrace where you can chat in all privacy while enjoying the mind-blowing panorama of the Caribbean Sea and the infinity pool. The Dollar to Florin deals on wine bottles start from 12 NOON every Wednesday. Now it gets even better because from 7PM you can enjoy the amazing voice of local singer Amy Sorinio. The all-round performer has a unique voice and a great energy. She easily connects with her

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beach. Let us introduce to you these locations.

Museum of Industry Aruba
Museum of Industry in San Nicolas, better known as the art capital of Aruba. This museum presents the history of gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and tourism through elaborated dis-



plays and multimedia installations.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. The Water Tower was built in 1939 and consists of three sections: the substructure, the high-rising vertical shaft, and the tank at the top. The Water Tower was purchased by the Monuments fund in 2003 so it could be restored and preserved as one of Aruba's monuments. The Museum of Industry is part of Fundacion Museo Arubano (FMA), which is a foundation set to maintain, preserve, and protect the Aruban culture sector, history, and nature. The museum of Industry is open daily from 9 am till 1 pm.

For more information check out their Facebook page Museum of Industry Aruba.

Archaeological Museum of Aruba

The Archaeological Museum of Aruba is located at Schelpstraat 42 in downtown Oranjestad. The renovated historic Ecury complex in downtown Oranjestad has been transformed from a family home to a modern museum that preserves Aruba's Amer-

indian cultural heritage. This 21st century museum is especially designed to preserve valuable artifacts dating back to the Pre-Ceramic period of 2500 BC.

In the late 1980's AMA identified its need for an adequate housing for its collection and activities. After studying various options, a project proposal was drawn up, including the acquisition and restoration of historical buildings in downtown Oranjestad.

These historical buildings were formerly the property of the Ecury family. The "Ecury Complex", is a cluster of single and two-story historic buildings, mainly Dutch colonial architecture from the late 19th and 20th century on a plot of approximately 1.700 m2.

In 1997 the Aruban Government bought the complex for the National Archaeological Museum project. In 2004 a financial agreement was signed with the European Development Fund and in 2006 restoration and construction work began on the monumental buildings and the new to build exhibition space. In December 2007 the key to

the complex was delivered and the museum's employees moved to the new location. The final design for the exhibit was completed in November 2007 and the permanent exhibit, financed by the Aruban Government and the Union of Cultural Organizations (UNOCA), opened in July 2009.

At the new location the National Archaeological Museum Aruba disposes of approximately 500 m2 for its permanent exhibit. This exhibit conveys through archaeological objects and modern exhibition techniques information on the origin and culture of the first inhabitants of the island. The new permanent exhibit gives the visitor an insight into the cultures that inhabited the island in Pre-Historical and Early Historical times. The museum also hosts an attractive public program including lectures, educational projects, temporary exhibits and workshops. The museum is open daily from 9:30 am till 4:30 pm.

For more information check out the Facebook page Museo Arqueologico Nacional Aruba. □



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War shakes Europe path to energy independence, climate goals

(AP) — Before Russia's war in Ukraine, Europe's most pressing energy policy goal was reducing carbon emissions that cause climate change.

Now, officials are fixated on rapidly reducing the continent's reliance on Russian oil and natural gas — and that means friction between security and climate goals, at least in the short term.

To wean itself from Russian energy supplies as quickly as possible, Europe will need to burn more coal and build more pipelines and terminals to import fossil fuels from elsewhere.

This dramatic shift comes amid soaring fuel costs for motorists, homeowners and businesses, and as political leaders reassess the geopolitical risks from being so energy-dependent on Russia.

In 2021, the European Union imported roughly 40% of its gas and 25% of its oil from Russia — an economic relationship that officials had thought would prevent hostilities, but is instead financing them.

While some are calling for an immediate boycott of all Russian oil and gas, the EU plans to reduce Russian gas imports by two-thirds by the end of this year, and to eliminate them altogether before 2030.

This “will not be easy,” said Paolo Gentiloni, the EU's top economic official. But, he added, “it can be done.”

In the near-term, ending energy ties with Russia puts the focus on securing alternative sources of fossil fuels. But longer term, the geopolitical and price pressures stoked by Russia's war in Ukraine may actually accelerate Europe's transition away from oil, gas and coal.

Experts say the war has served as a reminder that renewable energy isn't just good for the climate, but also for national security. That could help speed up the development of wind and solar power, as well as provide a boost to conservation and energy-efficiency initiatives.



The EU has pledged to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 55% compared with 1990 levels by 2030, and to get to net zero emissions by 2050. Analysts and officials say those goals, enshrined in EU climate legislation, can still be met.

The rapid pursuit of energy independence from Russia will likely require “a slight increase” in carbon emissions, said George Zachmann, an energy expert at the Bruegel think tank in Brussels.

But “in the long term, the effect will be that we will see more investment in renewables and energy efficiency in Europe,” Zachmann said.

Plans that wouldn't have been contemplated just a few months ago are now being actively discussed, such as running coal plants in Germany beyond 2030, which had previously been seen as an end date.

Germany's vice chancellor and energy minister, Robert Habeck, said there should be “no taboos.”

The Czech government has made the same calculation about extending the life of coal power plants.

“We will need it until we find alternative sources,” Czech energy secu-

rity commissioner Václav Bartuška, told the news site Seznam Zprávy. “Until that time, even the greenest government will not phase out coal.”

One of Europe's top priorities is to buy more liquefied natural gas that can come by ship. On Friday, American and European officials announced a plan under which the U.S. and other nations will increase liquefied gas exports to Europe this year, though U.S. officials were unable to say exactly which countries will provide the extra energy this year.

Germany, which lacks import terminals to turn LNG back into gas when it comes off the ship, is pushing ahead with two multi-billion-euro projects on its North Sea coast.

The war also has revived Spain's interest in extending a gas pipeline across the Pyrenees to France. The 450 million-euro (\$500 million) project had been abandoned in 2019 after France showed little interest and a European feasibility study deemed it unprofitable and unnecessary. If built, it would allow gas imported in Spain and Portugal as LNG to reach other parts of Europe.

In Britain, which is no longer part of the EU, Prime Minister Boris Johnson says it's “time to take back control of our energy supplies.”

Britain will phase out the small amount of oil it imports from Russia this year. More significantly, Johnson has signaled plans to approve new oil and gas exploration in the North Sea, to the dismay of environmentalists, who say that is incompatible with Britain's climate targets.

Some within the governing Conservative Party and the wider political right want the British government to retreat on its commitment to reach net zero by 2050, a pledge made less than six months ago at a global climate summit in Glasgow, Scotland. Conservative Party co-chairman Oliver Dowden said last week that “British people want to see a bit of conservative pragmatism, not net zero dogma.”

Yet the shock waves from the war cut both ways. Sharply higher gas and electricity prices, and the desire to be less dependent on Russia, are increasing pressure to expand the development of home-grown renewables and to

propel conservation.

The International Energy Agency recently released a 10-point plan for Europe to reduce its dependence on Russian gas by a third within a year. Simply lowering building thermostats by an average of one degree Celsius during the home-heating season would save 10 billion cubic meters of natural gas a year, or roughly 6% of what Europe imports from Russia.

At the German rooftop solar panel company Zolar, chief executive Alex Melzer said there has been a surge of inquiries from potential customers since the war began.

“With the Ukraine crisis, we've really seen that people are wondering whether Germany is going to stop buying oil and gas from Russia and what's going to happen to our electricity and energy system,” he told The Associated Press. Melzer said customers are less interested in saving the planet than in saving money, despite the upfront investment of 20,000 euros (\$22,000). But it amounts to the same thing: a reduction in fossil fuel use and thereby emissions.

“Goal achieved, super,” he said. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Stagger-

1 Showed sudden interest

6 Baby bull

10 Genetic twin

11 Wiped out, in skiing slang

13 Chopper part

14 Runway sight

15 Cry of insight

16 Employ

18 Sprinted

19 California resort city

22 Supporter's vote

23 Part to play

24 Fails miserably

27 Casual eateries

28 Diva's song

29 — au vin (chicken dish)

30 Moves by cheerleaders

35 — loss (confused)

36 Fellow

37 Cereal bit

38 Telegraphy pioneer

40 Musical set in Argentina

42 Stagger-

43 Stair part

44 RBI or ERA

45 Garden starters

DOWN

1 Throw

2 Honolulu

3 Add up

4 First

5 Reads

6 Bank job

7 Georgia

8 Find out

9 Obtain

10 Through

11 Trickery

12 Past and

17 Mud bath

20 "Oops, sorry!"

21 Baghdad native

24 Grand —

(Atlantic island)

25 Good

26 Mosque

27 Traps,

29 Tax-time

31 Refine

32 Racket

33 Like some

34 Flag

39 Yacht

41 Compete

42 Stagger-

43 Stair

44 RBI or

45 Garden

46 Starters

47 Throw

48 Honolulu

49 Add up

50 First

51 Reads

52 Bank job

53 Georgia

54 Find out

55 Obtain

56 Through

57 Trickery

58 Past and

59 Mud bath

60 "Oops, sorry!"

61 Baghdad native

62 Grand —

(Atlantic island)

63 Good

64 Mosque

65 Traps,

66 Tax-time

67 Refine

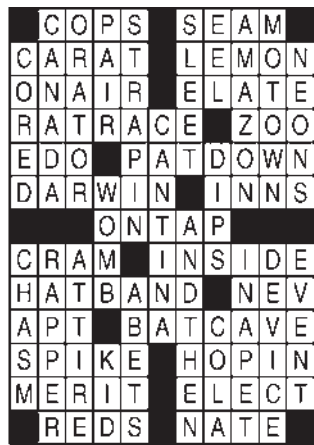
68 Racket

69 Like some

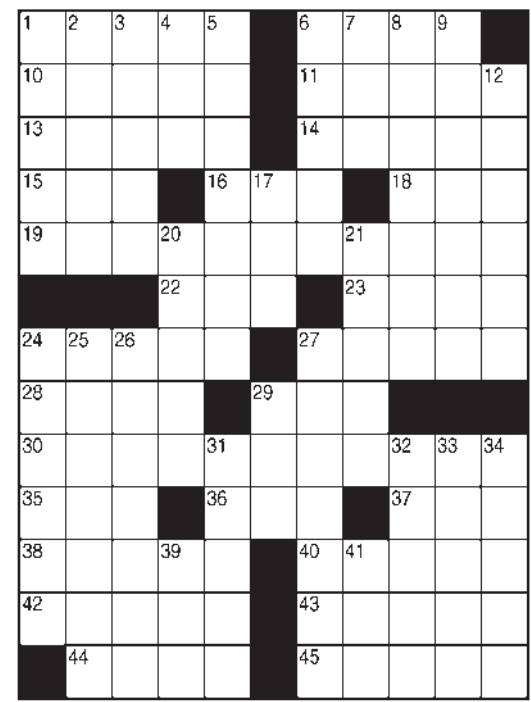
70 Flag

71 Yacht

72 Compete



Saturday's answer



A X Y D L B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-21

CRYPTOQUOTE

J P Q M D K Q M J K ' S M U M I K M S M R

Y J Q Y H O Y J J K V K Q G P J J K U I M

D T K H N J U M X P B M U B M Y C X Y J D .

— I M Z K J W Y B B P I I

Saturday's Cryptoquote: I NEVER MAKE STUPID MISTAKES. ONLY VERY, VERY CLEVER ONES. — JOHN PEEL

Crypto for Ukraine provides a flow of war-related assistance



(AP) — Ukraine, which has waged a staunch defense against Russian invasion, says it has pioneered a new source of financial support. People around the world who have donated millions of dollars directly to its war effort via cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin.

Since Feb. 26, when Ukrainian officials began tweeting calls for cryptocurrency donations, the Ukrainian government says it has taken in almost \$67 million of its \$200 million goal as of Saturday. "Today, crypto is playing a significant role in Ukraine's defense," Alex Boryakov, the country's deputy minister for digital transformation, wrote on the nation's donation website.

Ukraine has spent about \$34 million of the funds received as of last week, converting about 80% to traditional currencies and using the remainder with merchants that already accept cryptocurrencies, Boryakov said in response to emailed questions.

The funds raised in cryptocurrency are a just small part of the overall donations that Ukraine has received. After raising as much as \$12 million on March 2, cryptocurrency donations have tapered off although boosters say the

unexpected initial surge may inspire other efforts to solicit cryptocurrencies for humanitarian or defensive purposes.

Officials have said that the speed with which they can use cryptocurrency donations has made them useful.

The downside of that ease of transfer, of course, is that cryptocurrencies continue to be a magnet for scams and are the currency of choice for criminal networks. On Tuesday, European Central Bank head Christine Lagarde warned that crypto assets "are being used as a way to try to circumvent the sanctions" against Russia, but didn't provide details beyond noting that global transfers of rubles into cryptocurrency are rising sharply in volume.

Michael Chobanian, the founder of a Ukrainian cryptocurrency exchange, is one of several people helping the Ukrainian government manage the donations through an informal agreement, Boryakov confirmed.

"We are buying so much stuff that is saving lives every single day and also are stopping the aggression, so it's a beginning of the new world," Chobanian said in

a voice message sent via the app Telegram.

Chobanian said he was not receiving payment for his work but acknowledged that some of the funds are being converted through his cryptocurrency exchange Kuna.

"It's certainly a first," said Bennett Tomlin, who investigates cryptocurrency scams and hosts the podcast Crypto Critic's Corner. "We've never seen a sovereign nation fund their defense efforts in crypto before. It does prove out a lot of the crypto argument."

That argument is that cryptocurrencies allow for the unfettered sending and receiving of value across borders via networks that can't easily be censored or shut down because there is no single entity in charge. Proponents also argue that cryptocurrency doesn't require users to trust financial institutions because the system is managed by code that anyone can inspect and transactions are written indelibly into distributed public digital ledgers known as blockchains.

The donations to Ukraine are a stress test of sorts for those claims, some of which have fared better than others.

For example, services like cryptocurrency exchanges do act as gatekeepers in part because many are required to collect identifying information about the people who use their services. Two large cryptocurrency exchanges, Binance and Coinbase, took action to limit use of some of their services in Russia earlier this month, although they have not withdrawn entirely.

The publicity around Ukraine's call for donations also attracted scammers who tried to capitalize on the good will of donors. Hilary Allen, a professor at American University's law school who has written a book about the risks cryptocurrencies pose to financial systems, said anyone who donates should carefully look at all the actors involved. □

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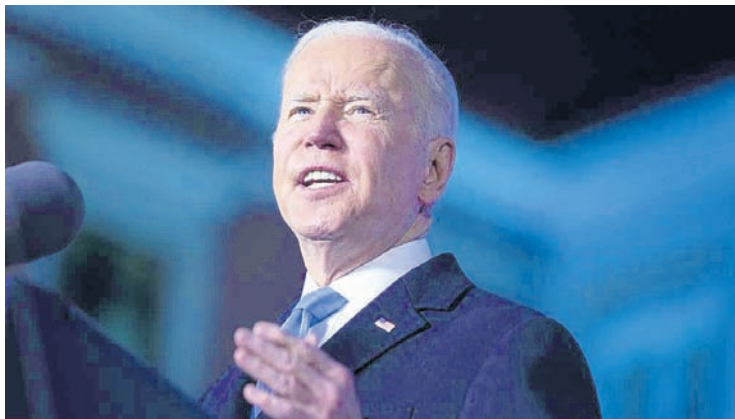
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24/7

Biden budget seeks minimum tax on households worth \$100m



(AP) — President Joe Biden intends to propose a minimum tax of 20% on households worth more than \$100 million and cut projected budget deficits by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, according to a fact sheet released Saturday by the White House budget office.

The introduction of the minimum tax on the wealthiest Americans would represent a significant reorienting of the tax code. It would apply to the top 0.01% of households with half of the expected revenue coming from households worth \$1 billion or more. The minimum tax would effectively prevent the wealthiest sliver of America from paying lower rates than families who think of themselves as middle class, while helping to generate revenues to fuel Biden's domestic ambitions and keep the deficit in check relative to the U.S. economy.

In his proposal expected Monday, the lower deficits

also reflect the economy's resurgence as the United States emerges from the pandemic. It's a sign that the government's balance sheet will improve after a historic burst of spending to combat the coronavirus.

The fading of the pandemic and the growth has enabled the deficit to fall from \$3.1 trillion in fiscal 2020 to \$2.8 trillion last year and a projected \$1.4 trillion this year. That deficit spending paid off in the form of the economy expanding at a 5.7% pace last year, the strongest growth since 1984. But inflation at a 40-year high also accompanied those robust gains as high prices have weighed on Biden's popularity.

For the Biden administration, the proposal for the budget year that begins Oct. 1 shows that the burst of spending helped to fuel growth and put government finances in a more stable place for years to come as a result. One White House official, insist-

ing on anonymity because the budget has yet to be released, said the proposal shows that Democrats can deliver on what Republicans have promised before without much success: faster growth and falling deficits. Yet the Biden budget would pledge to do so through a kind of wealth tax that many Republicans say would hurt the economy by diminishing private investment in companies that create jobs and cause the wealthy to put their fortunes to work abroad. Republican lawmakers have said that the Biden

administration's spending over the past year has led to greater economic pain in the form of higher prices. The inflation that came with reopening the U.S. economy as the closures from the pandemic began to end has been amplified by supply chain issues, low interest rates and, now, disruptions in the oil and natural gas markets because of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. □

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Kansas races past Miami in 2nd half, reaches 16th Final Four

(AP) — Ochai Agbaji, David McCormack and Christian Braun powered a dazzling second half for Kansas, and the top-seeded Jayhawks pounded Miami 76-50 on Sunday to advance to the program's 16th Final Four. Agbaji scored 18 points, McCormack had 15 and Braun finished with 12, helping Kansas rally after a lackluster start. The Jayhawks trailed by six points at half-time but outscored Miami 47-15 in the final 20 minutes. Kansas (32-6), the only No. 1 seed left in the NCAA Tournament, won the Midwest for the 13th time with its ninth consecutive victory overall. Next up is the national semifinals and a matchup with Villanova on Saturday in New Orleans. It's the fourth Final Four for coach Bill Self in his 19 seasons at Kansas. The last time the Jayhawks made it to the semis, they lost 95-79 to coach Jay Wright and the Wildcats in 2018. Remy Martin, the most outstanding player in the Midwest Region, finished with nine points and six rebounds for Kansas. Kameron McGusty scored 18 points and Isaiah Wong had 15 for No. 10 seed Miami in the program's first



appearance in the Elite Eight. The Hurricanes (26-11) were bidding to get coach Jim Larrañaga back to the Final Four for the first time since he led 11th-seeded George Mason there in 2006. McGusty spent two seasons at Oklahoma before transferring to Miami, averaging

13.5 points in four games against Kansas. And he looked comfortable playing against the Jayhawks again. The redshirt senior guard scored 14 points to help the Hurricanes to a 35-29 halftime lead. But everything changed after the break. With McCormack asserting himself inside and

Braun and Ogbai picking up their play on the perimeter, Kansas outscored Miami 25-7 over the first 10 minutes of the second half. Jalen Wilson made two foul shots and Agbaji connected from 3 to lift the Jayhawks to a 54-42 lead with 10:14 left. And the Big 12 champions just kept rolling.

A dunk by Agbaji capped a 10-0 run and made it 67-46 with 4:35 left, delighting the pro-Kansas crowd at the United Center. A 3 by Agbaji extended the lead to 23 points with 1:58 remaining.

The second-half numbers told the story of Kansas' dominance. Miami shot 21.4% (6 for 28) after the break, compared to 59.3% (16 for 27) for Kansas. The Jayhawks also outrebounded the Hurricanes 25-11 in the second half. Wilson finished with 11 rebounds to make up for a tough shooting day.

Sweet home Chicago
Kansas improved to 6-0 in NCAA Tournament games played in the Windy City.

Big picture

Miami: One of the Hurricanes' biggest strengths in the tourney was their ability to generate turnovers, but they were unable to rattle the experienced Jayhawks. Miami finished with 14 turnovers, compared to 11 for Kansas.

Kansas: The Jayhawks improved to 44-16 in the NCAA Tournament under Self, but they are focused on winning the national title for the first time since 2008. □

NFL owners not likely to make as much news as free agency

(AP) — There's virtually no chance NFL owners will be competing during their meetings this week with the stream of big news made by trades and in free agency thus far this year. Nor are they likely to try. The headlines generated by the movement of star players show Russell Wilson

in Denver now, Matt Ryan in Indianapolis, Khalil Mack in Los Angeles with the Chargers, Davante Adams in Las Vegas and Tyreek Hill in Miami. And so many more major moves. The 32 team owners will deal with some significant issues, as they always do. Two proposals to change

overtime rules are particularly intriguing.

Tennessee has recommended that both teams possess the ball in overtime unless the team receiving the kickoff scores a touchdown and a 2-point conversion. That would end the game.

Indianapolis and Philadelphia have proposed that both teams must have an opportunity to possess the ball in overtime. The powerful competition committee, chaired by Falcons President Rich McKay, has brought both of those suggestions to ownership for consideration and a vote this week.

"One thing we've tried to do is make sure overtime is designed to be traditional football," McKaysays, "and that means we're going to

have special teams, we're going to have field position, we're going to have the ability to play defense. All those things are elements. We've never tried as a committee to get ourselves in any type of gimmick in the football game. We try to play traditional football. "But the progression of offense and how efficient offenses are, specifically in the postseason where in 12 overtime games, the coin-toss winning teams won 10 times and seven of those on the first drive, offenses progress a lot. So that's why there's a discussion of a rules modification."

Fans who believe the current setup is unfair — teams winning the coin toss can score a touchdown and end the game before the opponent gets an opportu-

nity on offense — should be encouraged that the NFL is looking into this. Except for this:

"I think with my history on this rule, it tells me that 24 votes are not easy to get," McKay says of the required three-quarters of positive votes from the owners to cause a change. "But I do think that statistics absolutely warrant an examination of whether our overtime rules need to be further modified."

A new stadium for the Buffalo Bills, to be constructed in the parking lot of the current venue in suburban Orchard Park, New York, will be examined. New York state is committing millions of dollars toward the project, and the owners are expected to OK a \$200 million loan to the Bills. □



Scheffler, Kisner advance to championship at Match Play

(AP) — Scottie Scheffler reached the championship round at the Dell Technologies Match Play for the second straight year, this time with a lot more at stake.

A year ago, he was trying for his first PGA Tour victory. On Sunday, holding on to beat Dustin Johnson put him one win away from going to No. 1 in the world.

Scheffler took advantage of Johnson's mishaps and balky putter to go 5 up through 11 holes, then had to hold off a ferocious rally at Austin Country Club. He regained control when Johnson missed a 4-foot birdie putt on the 16th hole to fall 2 down, and then closed him out when Johnson's 15-foot birdie putt caught the lip.

The path doesn't get much easier for Scheffler. Next up Sunday afternoon was Kevin Kisner, who outlasted Corey Conners of Canada in a match so tight no one led by more than one hole. Kisner joined Tiger Woods and Geoff Ogilvy as the only players to reach the championship match at least three times since this World Golf Championship began in 1999. He lost in the final in 2018 and won the following year. His record is 22-6-1 on this Pete Dye design, a winning rate second only to Ogilvy.

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Scotland's Ferguson wins Qatar Masters after strong finish

Nanna Koerstz Madsen hangs onto JTBC Classic lead

Kisner, Scheffler making Sunday a habit in Match Play

Ben Martin maintains 2-shot lead in Dominican Republic

Scheffler was solid as usual, and Johnson was the worst he had been all week, especially on the green where Scheffler twice missed putts inside 10 feet and still had a 3-up lead through seven holes.

He nearly holed out from the fairway on the 10th, Johnson missed another putt on the 11th and Scheffler was 5 up and on his way. And then it changed.

Johnson won the 12th with a birdie. Scheffler, despite leading 4 up, curiously went with driver on the reachable par-4 13th over a portion of Lake Austin and came up short in the water. Johnson hit it tight on the next two holes, making from 10 feet and 4 feet for birdies.

He was 1 down and had all the momentum when Scheffler hit his second on the par-5 16th, uphill and into the wind, to about 12 feet. He missed the eagle attempt. Johnson, who was in a bunker, blasted out to 4 feet. But his short putt spun out of the cup, and he never recovered.

Behind them, Kisner stayed 1 up by making a 25-foot par on the eighth hole, and Conners seized the mo-

mentum to start the back nine.

He was left of the 10th green, left of the cart path and on packed dirt when he bounced a pitch so perfectly that it rolled out to 5 feet for par to avoid going 2 down. Then, he holed a 40-foot birdie putt on the par-3 11th. Kisner went from bunker to water on the par-5 12th, and Conners had the lead for the first time. Kisner squared the match with a par on the 14th, and the decisive moment came on the par-3 17th. Both were just off the green. Kisner lagged to a foot. Conners faced a downhill putt and hit it 8 feet by, missing the comebacker to fall 1 down.

On the 18th, Kisner from short of the green expertly



used the ridge behind the hole, running it up 25 feet and watching it roll back to 4 feet. Conners, just left

of the green with his drive, missed the eagle chip and the 10-foot birdie, conceding the match. □

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Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering

creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp. You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine

your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

